

June 13, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Ryan Nicholls returning as Emergency Management Director

The Greene County Commission and City of Springfield announced today Ryan Nicholls will be returning to his position as Director of Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

In March, Nicholls left Greene County OEM after seven years at the helm to assume the Director of State Emergency Management in Jefferson City.

"We were, of course, very sorry to lose a person of such immense leadership and emergency management experience," Greene County Presiding Commissioner Jim Viebrock said of Nicholls' departure. "We learned last week of Ryan's desire to return to back to his home, citing personal and family reasons for his decision."

City Manager Greg Burris said City staff and leaders are also pleased to welcome him back.

"We have an incredible team at the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management and will be happy to have Ryan back home in Greene County to continue the important work of emergency preparedness," Burris said. "Despite the great progress we have made as a community, we still have much work to do."

"I have enjoyed my time with the staff at the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency," Nicholls said. "I decided that the timing for this position was not the best for me and my young family. I am grateful that the County and City have allowed me to return so that I may continue living and working where I consider to be home."

Both Burris and Greene County Administrator Tim Smith also praised the interim leadership of Larry Woods. "Larry grabbed the wheel and Emergency Management didn't miss a beat," Smith said. "We all owe Larry much gratitude."

Smith concluded, "We are so happy to have Ryan back as Director of the Office of Emergency Management. After all, it was his leadership that helped the Office of Emergency Management become a world-class, fully accredited agency for the citizens of Springfield-Greene County."

Nicholls will assume his duties Monday, June 17, 2013.

For more information, contact Cora Scott, City of Springfield Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement, at 417-864-1009 or Dale Moore, Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management Public Information Officer, at 417-848-7777.